

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

0401-

November 2, 1943.

On file DOI release instructions apply.

Mr. Kirk H. Stone,
Joint Intelligence Study
Publishing Board,
Room 3808, Munitions Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Stone:

Comparison of the [] sheets with other map and library sources has revealed numerous errors in place name spellings on the [] maps. The Board on Geographical Names is interested in having JANIS accept all of the proper spellings for the following reasons:

1. Map sources other than [] even to the B.A. charts, are very consistent in the proper spellings of names, which makes the [] sheets comparatively unreliable for reference purposes.
2. The Board's spellings and local usage will almost invariably agree. The advantage of this for operations in the field and comparison of JANIS with other reports is obvious. The inconsistency of the [] names should not be permitted to handicap this advantage.
3. Confusion between features is likely to arise if diacritical marks are not accepted. For example, Sikole and Šikole refer to different towns and Crni Vrh and Črni vrh to different mountains. This arises from the fact that Č, Š, Ž, and Ž, pronounced ts, ch, ty, s, sh, z and zh respectively, are, in reality, different letters of the alphabet and cannot be used indiscriminately.
4. The [] sheets themselves are not consistent in their use of diacritical marks. For example, where two of the sheets overlap, Zur appears on one map and Žur on the other, both referring to the same feature. Some names properly carry the diacriticals; others improperly omit the marks. Spellings should be consistent throughout.
5. The value, measured in terms of efficiency of military operations, cost, and intelligibility, of using proper spellings cannot be overestimated.

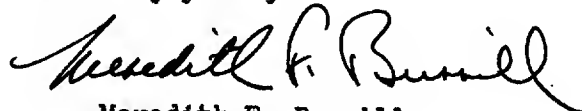


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6. The Board will prepare a guide to the pronunciation of the Romanized names and, if time permits, will provide the proper pronunciation of all place names so that users of the JANIS can talk about the places and be understood by those having first hand knowledge of the area.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Meredith F. Burrill". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Meredith F. Burrill,
Director.